

REMARKS

The Office Action of June 30, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

The present Amendment revises the title, as required by section 1 of the Office Action. The new title is "Numerical Information Retrieving Device For Transforming The Form In Which Numerical Information Is Presented."

The present Amendment also forwards a re-written Abstract in view of the objection in section 2. The re-written Abstract reduces the word-count of the original Abstract and voids claim-type language.

The present Amendment also revises the claims in view of the objections in section 4 of the Office Action. In view of these revisions, it is respectfully submitted that the claim objections should be withdrawn.

Turning now to section 6 of the Office Action, the present Amendment responds to the rejection for non-statutory subject matter by canceling claim 2, and transferring its subject matter to claim 1. As a result, claim 1 is now directed to a device that includes such features as a "document database" and a "document storage and retrieval means." It is respectfully submitted that claim 1, as amended, is directed to a practical application of a technique for inputting a document or a numerical expression, producing a numerical conversion, and storing the result. Since the invention now defined by claim 1 is now directed to statutory subject matter under the criteria set forth in MPEP section 2106, the rejection under 35 USC 101 should be withdrawn.

In addition, the present Amendment revises claims 2 (now combined with claim 1), 3, 4, and 6 in view of the indefiniteness rejections in section 8 of the Office Action. One of

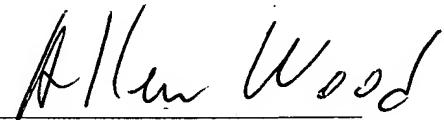
these rejections, though, is respectfully reversed. The bottom paragraph on page 5 of the Office Action takes the position that the “extraction information dictionary” of claim 4 is confusing in view of the “extraction means” of claim 2 (now combined with claim 1). However, Figure 7 of the application’s drawings shows an extraction information dictionary 11 that is distinct from an extraction means 8, and it is therefore respectfully submitted that an ordinarily skilled person who had read the present application would not be confused by the recitation of both an “extraction means” and an “extraction information dictionary” in the claims.

With regard to the rejection of claim 4 for indefiniteness, in section 9 of the Office Action, the present Amendment revises the claim to recite a “selected one of the comparing conditions” and a “selected one of the alignment orders.” It is respectfully submitted that this clarifies any indefiniteness that may previously have been present.

Finally, in reply to section 10 of the Office Action, the present Amendment revises the body of claim 1 to expressly recite that a numerical value is converted “into said numerical information in a natural language.” The body of claim 1 thus now refers to recitations in the preamble, thereby imparting a significance to the preamble that transforms it from a mere statement of intended use.

In the absence of rejections on prior art, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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